



Parke Curason pa Deporte Jaburibari breaks new ground for Aruba's youth

On Friday afternoon, a gathering of dignitaries and individuals involved in Aruba's world of sport attended the official groundbreaking ceremony of the Parke Curason pa Deporte Jaburibari. Prime Minister Nelson Oduber welcomed everyone on behalf of Aruba and the Minister of Labor, Culture and Sport, Ramon Lee, who unfortunately could not attend. He offered a particular welcome to Deputy Minister of Health and Sport for the Netherlands, Mrs. Clemence Roos-van Dorp, and the Representative of the Netherlands in Aruba, Drs. L. Harteveld, and a heartfelt thank you for their part in the realization of this facility for the island's youth.

The directors of the sports organizations IDEFRE, which administrates over most field sport on the island, and LIFIDA, the youth soccer league, were also present for the event. The Parke Curason is home to a number of amenities for children of all ages, but the area for Friday's groundbreaking has been set aside for the construction of a soccer stadium with funds provided by Holland through the Johann Cruyff Foundation, a group dedicated to the promotion of the sport amongst youth throughout the Netherlands and its territorial partners. Mrs. Roos van Dorp and Prime Minister Oduber also took this opportunity to sign the agreement between Holland and Aruba for the commitment to construct the stadium. To the amusement of the gathering, the Prime Minister noted that with a great deal of luck and work, Aruba might possibly be able to produce a soccer team capable of beating a Dutch team in ten years or so.

The Primavera girls' soccer team was also present to welcome the construction of this facility on behalf of all the youngsters on the island that will take advantage of what promises to be a beautiful, modern facility. Organizations such as IDEFRE and in particular, LIFIDA are very happy to see such an arena readily available to the over 2000 youngsters that participate in the more than fifty soccer teams on the island. The Parke Curason pa Deporte Jaburibari, offers the island's youth much more than only a soccer arena, the large area has been beautifully landscaped and designed to offer a recreation center for the entire family, focused on healthy physical outlets for children. This project typifies many proactive actions by various island organizations and the government to promote sport and construct facilities that provide opportunities for island residents to pursue a more active lifestyle in general.